

# **APROVED: JUNE 11, 2008**

## **UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 12, 2008**

**UDOT Complex  
4501 South 2700 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119**

**Committee Members Present:**

LeRoy Schultz, Vice-chairman  
Onno Wieringa, Member  
Robert Hull, Ex-officio Member  
Curt Panter, Member  
Peter Dahlberg, Member  
Les Fuller, Member

**Members Absent**

Chris Anderson, Chairman

**Committee Support Staff:**

Brian Allen, Ropeway Safety Engineer  
Cindy Finau, Secretary

**Others Present:**

Paul Ehlert, Doppelmayr-CTEC  
Mike Beeley, Doppelmayr-CTEC  
Van Edgette, Alta  
Dal Freeman, Lagoon  
John Barlow, Brighton  
Mike Doyle, Brighton  
JR Reinhardt, The Canyons  
Kirk Ottman, Snowbird  
Kerry Braun, Solitude  
Coe Steadman, Snowbasin  
Kevin Bourne, US Forest Service  
Ted Seeholzer, Beaver Mountain  
Travis Seeholzer, Beaver Mountain  
Jeff West, Beaver Mountain  
Shane Matthews, Powder Mountain  
Jason Provost, Soldier Hollow

## CALL TO ORDER

Chris Anderson was excused so LeRoy Schultz conducted the meeting. It was called to order at 1:00p.m. He welcomed those present and acknowledged the fact that some areas travel long distances to attend the Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meetings. Appreciation was given to all areas represented as well as manufacturers and interested parties for their attendance and support..

## I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a brief review of the minutes taken March 10, 2008, Onno Wieringa motioned to approve the minutes as discussed and amended. Les Fuller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## II. ANNUAL EXCEPTIONS

There are currently 6 exceptions granted by the Committee. The first four are on-going exceptions and require the Committee to re-approve them for the upcoming operating season. The last two exceptions apply to lifts currently in the design and construction phases. Discussion of the 6 exceptions is listed below:

- **BEAVER MOUNTAIN:** The Little Beaver lift does not conform with the rules because the evacuation power unit drives through the prime mover which requires the evacuation drive to rely on the mechanical integrity of the prime mover. In November of 1994 the Ropeway Safety Committee began requiring that all lifts meet the requirements for Auxiliary drives. In 1997 an exception was granted to allow Beaver Mountain to operate the Little Beaver lift with the limitation as stated above. After a brief discussion no committee members had any objections to continuing with this exception. Peter Dahlberg motioned to approve this exception and was seconded by Curt Panter. This motion was made later in the meeting and applied to both the Little Beaver and Rustler Lodge lifts. The motion passed unanimously.
- **BRIGHTON:** The Crest Express lift does not conform to the rules because it does not have any rope position detection and runs faster than 600 feet per minute. This lift was installed in 1991 prior to the code change. In 1994 the Ropeway Safety Committee began requiring that all detachable lifts meet the requirements for 'Rope Position Monitoring.' In 1997 an exception was granted to allow Brighton to operate the Crest Express Lift with the limitation stated above. Today's discussion focused on the following points:
  - This is the only detachable lift in Utah without RPD's.
  - The lift has operated since 1991 without any problems.
  - Other lifts that do have RPD's have also operated without any problems. The RDP's have shown to be useful in notifying operators when the rope begins to move out of alignment.

Based on the fact that the lift has run since 1991 without any problems, the exception was approved for one more year because of the service-proven history. The exception was granted with a condition that the exception request be re-evaluated by a Qualified Engineer in the next year. The statement that the current equipment "provides features that are comparable in performance and safety to the requirements in the standards" needs to be addressed in the re-evaluation. The motion to approve this exception for another year with the re-evaluation stipulation was made by Onno Wieringa and seconded by Les Fuller. The motion passed.

- **LAGOON:** On the Sky Ride the APU is dependant on the mechanical integrity of the prime mover to drive the unit. The local fire department has come in every year to perform evacuation training. Les Fuller made a motion to approve the exception and Onno Wieringa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **ALTA:** The Rustler Chairlift does not have an attendant at the top terminal. The lift travels very slowly and every chair stops as the skier stands up to unload. There is an operator at the bottom who initiates the start of the lift. There are redundant switches at the top as well as video monitors. Peter Dahlberg motioned to approve this exception and was seconded by Curt Panter. This motion included both the Little Beaver and Rustler Lodge lifts. The motion passed unanimously.
- **THE CANYONS:** The airspace exception for the Miner's Club project was granted this last year. It is still in final design. Once the design is complete the clearances around some of the buildings will be reviewed. The plans will be coming from Joe Gmeunder. When more information is available the committee will review the project once again.
- **DEER CREST:** This exception is for the automated operation of funiculars at the St. Regis Hotel. The exception was approved for the upcoming '08-'09 operating season since this is when it is scheduled to be in operation. The funiculars are still being built and under construction. The exception is to allow for some automated operation not currently covered by B77.2 and that automated operation has been designed to the European Standards. There has been some discussion with the Elevator Safety division concerning if these are funiculars or inclined elevators. Design drawings have been sent to the Elevator Division so they could review them. It was decided that they fit under the funicular definitions that the Utah Legislature has set. They are considered to be two independent single reversible funiculars.

Brian noted that he received a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Forest Service with their concurrence regarding the two exceptions of Alta and Brighton since they are on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

### III. YAN CHAIR BAIL – DOPPELMAYR HANGER

Marge's triple lift at Beaver Mountain is the only lift in Utah using Lift Engineering (YAN) chair bails with Doppelmayr hangers. The other lifts with YAN chair bails all have YAN hangers and they are in the process of being fitted with gussets. However, in this case, the standard gusset will not fit on the Marge's triple lift because of the combination of the YAN bail and the Doppelmayr hanger. Chuck Peterson, Tramway Engineering, was asked to evaluate this situation and give his recommendations. A letter from Chuck was sent to Jeff West on October 13, 2007, stating his findings. After a review of the letter it was determined that they follow the eight recommendations from Chuck instead of having the gusset put on. Brian feels comfortable with Chuck Peterson's recommendations. Onno Wieringa moved to accept the recommendations of Chuck Peterson for Beaver Mountain's Marge's triple lift and Peter Dahlberg seconded the motion and was passed.

### IV. UPDATES

#### Forest Service

Curt Panter indicated that the Forest Service did not have any issues to discuss.

### **Staff**

Brian reminded everyone that there is only one week left to submit applications for the Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at Wolf Mountain. Since the ISAA Meetings are also being held there, we were asked to move our meeting to Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00p.m.

At the end of the winter Doppelmayr sent out a letter having some additional switches added to one style of their detachable terminals. Brian Allen wanted to know if other terminal styles or grip models might need additional switches also? The discussion identified that this has not been determined yet. The discussion noted that the fault annunciated by the new switch is not unique, and this complicates the process of checking this switch each day. The solution for this is also being determined.

### **Areas**

**ALTA:** Van Edgette said they had a very good season with huge amounts of snow. Onno Wieringa added that the method they used to change the bullwheel bearing on the Supreme Lift worked very well and would be used in the future. They are planning on adding a loading conveyor to the Supreme lift this fall.

**SNOWBIRD:** Kirk Ottman said that as of today they had stopped daily skiing operations. Weekend operations would continue.

**SNOWBASIN:** Coe Steadman indicated that they would be replacing the Little Cat lift this summer.

**BRIGHTON:** John Barlow stated that it will be a maintenance summer for them and a chance to catch up.

**BEAVER MOUNTAIN:** Ted Seeholzer said this has been a good ski season for Beaver Mountain.

**THE CANYONS:** J.R. stated that they too had a good season. The Minor Club lift may installed this year and a transfer lift is being considered.

**POWDER MOUNTAIN:** Shane Matthews said thy had a good season.

**LAGOON:** Dal Freeman commented about the new Front-runner rail line going from Salt Lake City to Ogden. It stops across from Lagoon where people can be transferred to a catch shuttle. He thanked Robert Hull and UDOT for the hard work they are accomplishing in this area to make traveling by the public more efficient.

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**SOLDIER HOLLOW:** Jason Provost from Soldier Hollow was introduced. He stated that things are good at Soldier Hollow. He has worked there for several years but has a new position and will be attending the meetings.

**SOLITUDE:** Kerry Braun summarized their year at Solitude as being great. Details are being finalized on lift construction for this summer.

**V. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held June 11, 2008 at Wolf Mountain and will begin at 1:00p.m.